

ORDER OF HEALTH OFFICER

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus a pandemic;

WHEREAS, the President of the United States, in consultation with public health authorities, declared a National state of emergency on March 12, 2020;

WHEREAS, as of July 22, 2020, the John Hopkins Map indicates there are over 3,915,780 cases and more than 138,840 deaths in the United States;

WHEREAS, all fifty states of the United States are experiencing confirmed cases of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) recognizes COVID-19 as a threat to the residents of Montana;

WHEREAS, as of July 22, 2020, there are 2813 confirmed COVID-19 cases in the State of Montana, which include 42 COVID-19 related deaths;

WHEREAS, as of July 22, 2020, the total of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Cascade County is 81;

WHEREAS, the Cascade City-County Health Department has activated response plans and protocols to prepare for cases of COVID-19 in Cascade County:

WHEREAS, the Cascade City-County Health Department has also worked to identify, contact, and test individuals in Cascade County who have been potentially exposed to COVID-19 in coordination with the State of Montana DPHHS and the CDC;

WHEREAS, proactively implementing mitigation measures to slow the spread of the virus is in the best interests of Cascade County and its people;

WHEREAS, COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and is a new strain of Coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person-to-person;

WHEREAS, the CDC identifies the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 both globally and in the United States as "high" and has advised that person-to-person spread of the COVID-19 will continue to occur globally, including within the United States, Montana, and Cascade County;

WHEREAS, the circumstances of this outbreak may exceed the capacity of the services, personnel, equipment, supplies and facilities of Cascade County;

WHEREAS, the Cascade City-County Health Department and the Public Health Officer for Cascade County have the duty to protect the public from the introduction and spread of communicable disease or other conditions of public health importance, including through actions to ensure the removal of filth or other contaminants that might cause disease or adversely affect public health;

WHEREAS, based upon all of the above, the Governor of the State of Montana, in consultation with public health authorities, has directed non-essential social and recreational gatherings of individuals outside of a home or place of residence of greater than fifty (50) people not advisable, if a distance of at least six (6) feet between individuals cannot be maintained. Events with groups larger than 50 people should be cancelled unless physical distancing can be maintained and consultation with the local public health office to implement adequate social distancing when planning an event with more than 50 people.

WHEREAS, the Cascade City-County Health Department has a duty to protect the public from the introduction and spread of communicable disease or other conditions of public health importance, including through actions to ensure the removal of filth or other contaminants that might cause disease or adversely affect public health;

WHEREAS, the Cascade City-County Health Department has determined that the potential spread of COVID-19 constitutes a public health emergency and actions must be taken to avert and minimize the outbreak of this communicable disease and;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 50-2-118 of the Montana Code Annotated, a local health officer in carrying out the

purpose of the public health system shall take steps to limit contact between people in order to protect public health from imminent threats, including but not limited to ordering the closure of buildings or facilities where people congregate and cancelling events;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is an easily transmissible, potentially fatal respiratory illness that spreads in the air through droplets from infected persons. COVID-19 is transmissible even by individuals who are not currently showing symptoms of the disease and who do not know they are infected. Use of a fabric covering over the mouth and nose, however, is an effective means of limiting the potential for transmission to others by both symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals infected with the virus. Recent research suggests that universal use of face coverings in enclosed public spaces would substantially reduce the spread of COVID-19. A recent economic analysis from Goldman Sachs found universal face covering usage to be a potentially effective substitute for business closures. Based on these considerations, many major retailers and state and local governments have recently adopted measures to encourage or mandate the use of face coverings.

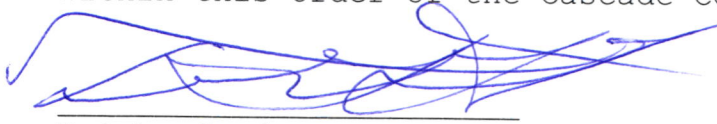
NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AND UNTIL RESCINDED OR REPLACED BY FURTHER ORDER, pursuant to Title 50, Chapter 2, Part 1, and specifically Section 50-2-118 of the Montana Code Annotated, the Cascade City-County Health Officer, hereby adopts the Governor's July 15, 2020 Directive requiring the use of facial coverings in indoor spaces open to the public and certain organized outdoor activities in its entirety and incorporates it herein verbatim by reference.

Public non-emergency complaints regarding violations of this Order shall be directed to the City-County Health Department at 406-454-6950 for verification and possible referral to Law Enforcement and/or the County Attorney's Office for enforcement against an establishment or gathering organizer.

These Orders supersede and replace all prior Orders of the Cascade County Health Officer.

These Orders may be modified and/or expanded, and the effective dates may be extended by future directives of the Cascade County Health Officer.

These Orders may be modified and/or expanded and may be pre-empted by future directives of the Governor of the State of Montana that are stricter than those contained within this Order of the Cascade County Health Officer.



Dated: July 22, 2020

Trisha Gardner
Health Officer
Cascade City-County Health Department